



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

ICE CHICAGO DEPORTS 161 ON WEEKLY GOVERNMENT FLIGHT

Fugitive wanted for murder in Mexico on flight as agency continues to enforce immigration laws

CHICAGO—A man who illegally crossed the southern border to escape murder charges in Mexico and eventually made his way to Fort Wayne, Ind., was one of 161 Mexican nationals who were deported on a government flight for prisoners Friday by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Manuel Garcia-Reyes, 35, is an illegal alien wanted on a criminal arrest warrant for homicide in the Mexican state of Veracruz. ICE received a tip that Garcia-Reyes was wanted in Mexico and took custody of him April 5 upon his release from prison on a drunk-driving conviction. He was turned over to Mexican authorities Friday at the border.



Manuel Garcia-Reyes

“Our office ensures that the United States isn’t a haven for criminal aliens,” said Field Office Director Deborah Achim, who leads ICE’s detention and removal efforts in Chicago. “Criminal aliens are not welcome here. ICE works daily to arrest and deport such criminals so that they can face justice in their own countries. At the same time we make our own communities safer.” Achim oversees the program for a six-state area including: Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas and Missouri.



Monico Campos-De Luera

Also on board Friday’s prisoner flight was Monico Campos-De Luera, 38, a Mexican who shot and killed his wife and their unborn child on New Year’s Eve 1987. Victoria Campos was five months pregnant at the time of her death. Campos-De Luera was convicted in Cook County of first-degree murder and intentional homicide of an unborn child and sentenced to 35 years in prison.

These weekly deportations demonstrate ICE's commitment to restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system, which is reflected in a record year of deportations. ICE formally removed more than 160,000 aliens nationally in fiscal year 2004. More than half of those were criminal aliens. The ICE Chicago office accounted for deporting more than 6,100 aliens last year, a 28-percent increase over the previous year.

ICE effects its deportations aboard both commercial and government aircraft. The government's aircraft is run by the U.S. Marshal Service, and is called the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS). JPATS is one of the largest transporters of prisoners in the world and handles hundreds of requests every day to move prisoners and criminal aliens nationally and internationally. There is an automatic 10-year bar against deported aliens from legally re-entering the U.S.

"Anyone caught by any law enforcement office after having been previously deported will be presented by ICE officers to the U.S. Attorney for prosecution," said Achim. "Reentry after deportation is a felony that carries a possible 20-year prison sentence."

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.